

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, GE

SUBJ: CULTURAL EXCHANGES: ARTICLE BY ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER

SUMMARY:

ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER STATES GDR POLICY ON CULTURAL EXCHANGES
AND REACTS DEFENSIVELY TO IDEA THAT GDR IS EXCLUDING WESTERN,
NON-SOCIALIST PROGRAMS, THUS FAILING TO FULFILL THE SPIRIT
AND LETTER OF THE FINAL ACT OF CSCE. END SUMMARY

1. IN A LONG ARTICLE POMPOUSLY ENTITLED: "CULTURAL
COOPERATION WITH ALL PEOPLES IN THE INTEREST OF PEACE
AND DETENTE," ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, DR. HORST GRUNERT,
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DETAILS GDR POLICY ON CULTURAL EXCHANGES IN A RECENT

ISSUE OF HORIZONT.

2. BEGINNING SAFELY WITH A QUOTE FROM LENIN AND A STATEMENT THAT "LIBERATION BY THE SOVIET UNION" PROVIDED THE PUBLIC OF EAST GERMANY WITH NEW ACCESS TO THEIR OWN AND OTHER CULTURES, GRUNERT NOTES THAT THE FIRST TASK OF THE GDR IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN CULTURAL RELATIONS IS THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF EXCHANGES WITH THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

3. A SECOND GOAL IS THAT OF SUPPORTING SOCIAL AND NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN THE FORMER COLONIAL AREAS OF THE WORLD, ASSISTING THESE COUNTRIES IN "SHEDDING THE CULTURAL REMNANTS OF COLONIALISM" AND IN BUILDING UP THEIR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS AND NATIVE CULTURES. THE COUNTRIES OF ASIA, AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICAN ARE TO BE AIDED IN THEIR EFFORT TO FREE THEMSELVES OF COLONIALISM AND IMPERIALISM THROUGH THE SENDING OF GDR EXPERTS TO ASSIST THEM AS WELL AS THROUGH THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THESE COUNTRIES IN GDR INSTITUTIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE HIGH REGARD FOR GDR EXPERTS IN THESE COUNTRIES IS NOTED, ESPECIALLY IN AIDING IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS. AMONG GDR INSTITUTIONS CONTRIBUTING TO THE TRAINING OF CADRES FROM THE FORMER COLONIAL AREAS, THE HERDER INSTITUTE IN LEIPZIG IS SINGLED OUT FOR PRAISE, HAVING ALLEGEDLY GIVEN MORE THAN 10,000 YOUNG PEOPLE FROM OVER 120 COUNTRIES SUFFICIENT KNOWLEDGE OF GERMAN TO ENABLE THEM TO PURSUE THEIR STUDIES AT GDR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

4. LAST OF ALL, GRUNERT COMES TO THE QUESTION OF CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH THE CAPITALIST COUNTRIES, "WHICH WERE OVERSHADOWED FOR A LONG TIME BY THE ATTEMPT TO DENY THE EXISTENCE OF THE GDR AND THEREBY THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ITS CITIZENS". DURING THIS PERIOD, ACCORDING TO GRUNERT, WHILE GDR ARTISTS WERE FREQUENTLY EXPLOITED AND DENIED THE PROTECTION OF GDR EMBASSIES, COUNTLESS ARTISTS FROM WESTERN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA PERFORMED IN THE GDR, AND HUNDREDS OF FOREIGN BOOKS AND FILMS ALSO APPEARED THERE.

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5. THROUGHOUT THIS ENTIRE SECTION OF THE ARTICLE, GRUNERT DEFENSIVELY ASSERTS THE ALLEGIANCE OF THE GDR TO THE FINAL ACT OF CSCE AT HELSINKI, AS WELL AS ITS FULFILLMENT OF THE ACT'S "TEN PRINCIPLES." HE EXPRESSES "AMAZEMENT" THAT "THOSE, WHO HINDERED EQUALITY IN COOPERATION IN THE CULTURAL AREA FOR DECADES, ATTEMPT TO REPRESENT THEMSELVES TODAY AS OLD CHAMPIONS OF FREE

CULTURAL EXCHANGES AND UNDERTAKE TO LECTURE THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ON THIS THEME." HE THEN REPEATS THE OFT-CITED STATISTICS ABOUT THE ADVERSE BALANCE OF FOREIGN PRINTED ABROAD, THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN PLAYS PRODUCED IN GDR THEATERS AS CONTRASTED WITH GDR PLAYS PERFORMED ABROAD, THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN FILMS PURCHASED COMPARED WITH GDR FILMS SOLD, ETC., AND CONCLUDES THAT "IT IS NOT WE WHO HAVE A NEED TO COMPENSATE FOR A LACK OF AIRING OF THE CULTURAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OTHER LANDS."

6. THIS DOES NOT MEAN, GRUNERT CONTINUES, THAT THE GDR IS GOING TO ACCEPT EVERYTHING PRODUCED IN OTHER LANDS. "WE SHALL NEVER FORGET, THAT PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE DOES NOT MEAN A LESSENING OF THE IDEOLOGICAL BATTLE, BUT RATHER THE OPPOSITE." HE THEN CONCLUDES THE ARTICLE WITH THE STATEMENT THAT "...THERE IS A BROAD FIELD FOR FUTURE TWO-WAY AND MULTIPLE AGREEMENTS, INsofar AS THEY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE FINAL ACT (OF CSCE), SERVE THE STRENGTHENING OF PEACE, INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING, AND THE SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT OF MANKIND."

7. COMMENT: GRUNERT'S ARTICLE REVEALS CONTINUED SENSITIVITY TO CHARGES THAT THE GDR IS EXCLUDING FOREIGN CULTURAL PROGRAMS, ESPECIALLY FROM THE WESTERN COUNTRIES, AND IS NOT PERFORMING ADEQUATELY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FINAL ACT OF CSCE. IN THIS CONNECTION HE MENTIONS NEITHER THE US NOR THE FRG, BUT DOES CITE TRANSLATIONS OF BRITISH AUTHORS AND PURCHASE OF FRENCH AND ITALIAN FILMS BY THE GDR AS EXAMPLES OF CULTURAL EXCHANGES HEAVILY WEIGHTED IN FAVOR OF WESTERN, NON-SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.COOPER

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